

**TITLE: SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE REPORTING FOR  
CALAVERAS COUNTY**

**APPROVED:** SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE  
Executive Director

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12/9/98

**SUPERSEDES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Medical Director

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**SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE REPORTING FOR CALAVERAS COUNTY**

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.186, 1797.188, 1797.189.

II. DEFINITION

- A. “Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel” means any First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Mobile Intensive Care Nurse or Physician who functions as a part of the EMS system.
- B. “Reportable disease or condition” or “a disease or condition listed as reportable” means those diseases prescribed by Subchapter 1 (commencing with Section 2500) of Chapter 4 of Title 17 of the California Administrative Code, as may be amended from time to time.
- C. “Exposed” means at risk for contracting a disease.
- D. “Health Facility” is any hospital authorized to receive patients from the EMS system.
- E. “Provider Agency” means an Agency that provides Prehospital Emergency Medical Care.
- F. “Significant Exposure” is defined as an unprotected exposure to blood, body fluids or secretions.

III. PURPOSE

To provide a procedure by which the above sections of the law can be fulfilled, should a prehospital emergency medical care personnel be exposed to a reportable communicable disease.

IV. POLICY

- A. Pre-hospital personnel shall be provided follow-up information after reporting to a local receiving health facility or the Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner a potential significant exposure.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Prehospital emergency medical care personnel who suspect that they have had a significant exposure shall immediately notify their appropriate supervisor and the emergency department of the receiving health facility and shall complete and submit a "Situation Report Form" (See example of Form attached to this policy). A separate report form must be completed for each exposed person.

1. To determine if a Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Provider has had an unprotected exposure, ask the following:

- a) If it is suspected that a disease is airborne: was the responder near the patient without a mask; or
- b) Did any blood or body fluid enter the responders body by:
- 1) needle stick,
  - 2) laceration by contaminated object,
  - 3) mucus membrane or eyes, or
  - 4) open wound

- B. The Situation Report Form shall be submitted to the patient's receiving health facility as soon as possible or to the Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner at the time of delivery of a deceased patient. The completion of this form is the responsibility of the person/agency requesting notification. Timely delivery of this form to the receiving health facility may be accomplished in the following manner: either by 1) the transporting ambulance personnel, 2) by faxing it to the receiving facility, or 3) it may be hand delivered by the reporting party/ agency.

- C. A physician at the receiving facility shall determine whether there has been significant exposure to the prehospital personnel and shall document his findings on the Situation Report form. If it is determined that the patient has a communicable disease, the receiving facility shall submit the completed copy of the "Situation Report Form" (with the physician's findings) to the county health department. The health department will notify the prehospital personnel of the exposure.

1. Prehospital personnel should contact the Calaveras County Health Department within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident to ensure that the process has been started.

- D. Prehospital personnel may seek prophylactic medical treatment and/or advice per their agency/employer's policy. PAYMENT FOR ANY TREATMENT/TESTS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EMPLOYING AGENCY. PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE THROUGH WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE.
  
- E. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to authorize the further disclosure of confidential medical information by the health facility or any of the pre-hospital emergency medical care personnel except as otherwise authorized by law.